

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and continued examination of this application in view of the amendments and following remarks. Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12, 14-18, 21 and 22 are pending in this application.

Applicant is grateful for the allowance of claims 13 and 19.

1. Status of the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 2 and 13. Claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 19. Claim 2, 13, 19 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 5, 8 and 12 were amended so that they depend on claim 1 instead of claim 2, now canceled. Claims 1 and 14 are the only independent claims.

2. Rejections

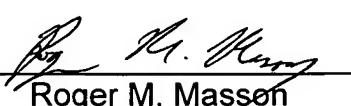
Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112. Claim 20 has been canceled. Thus, the rejection of claim 20 is moot.

Claims 1-8, 10, 12, 14-18, 21 and 22 were rejected as being obvious. Claims 13 and 19 were indicated as being patentable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 13 and claim 2, on which claim 13 depended. Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 19. Claims 2, 13 and 19 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12, 14-18, 21 and 22 are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12, 14-18, 21 and 22 are allowable.
An early indication of allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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